



COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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JAMES F. STAHL
Chief Engineer and General Manager

September 29, 2005

Via electronic and U.S. mail

Ms. Tam Doduc, Chair,
and Members
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairwoman Doduc and Members:

**ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSITION 50, CHAPTER 8
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING GRANT FUNDING LIST,
SWRCB WORKSHOP, OCT. 5, 2005, AGENDA ITEM 5**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County ("Districts") to express our concerns regarding the Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning grant funding recommendations, which are scheduled for consideration by the State Water Board at a workshop on October 5. By way of background, the Sanitation Districts are a confederation of 24 individual special districts providing wastewater and solid waste management services to over 5 million people in Los Angeles County, including 78 cities and unincorporated territory within the County. Our agency is on the Steering Committee of two of the four regional groups in Los Angeles County that have applied for planning grants under the Chapter 8 IRWM program. We are also the lead agency for another IRWM regional group in the Santa Clara River watershed. We believe the unprecedented level of collaboration occurring among a multitude of agencies, non-profit organizations and other stakeholders in the IRWM regions within Los Angeles County have great potential to improve regional water resource management in the County. But it is important that the State recognize this promise and appropriately allocate funds to ensure that the potential benefits are in fact realized.

We are concerned that, based on the list of proposed planning grant awards, Los Angeles County, with well over a quarter of the State's population, would effectively receive less than 4 percent of the funding available for IRWM planning. To achieve the full benefits of the regional collaborative efforts that have begun, we strongly encourage you to consider a minimum 40% allocation of planning grant funding to Southern California, a minimum 40% allocation to Northern California and the remaining 20% allocated at the State's discretion. Rather than accomplishing this by reducing or eliminating the awards to Northern California regions, we recommend that this be accomplished by increasing the \$12 million made available for planning by up to \$3 million and earmarking this funding for Southern California. Given the high level of interest in and commitment to moving forward with IRWM plans and related

efforts, we believe that this more appropriate distribution of investment by the State in integrated planning in Los Angeles County would yield a considerable return, and that there would in fact be dramatic leveraging of the State's planning grant funds. We urge the DWR and SWRCB to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

In conclusion, while we appreciate that the proposed list of planning grant awards includes funding for the effort led by the Watershed Conservation Authority, we strongly urge you to make revisions to the proposed list and to also award funds to the regional planning efforts led by the West Basin Municipal Water District, City of Los Angeles, and Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority. We appreciate your leadership on this issue and your consideration of our comments.

Very truly yours,

James F. Stahl



Victoria O. Conway
Assistant Head
Technical Services Department

VOC:SG:MZ:drs

Cc: Celeste Cantú, Executive Director, SWRCB
Lester Snow, Dept. of Water Resources
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Joseph Mundine, Deputy Director, Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Shelly Luce, Executive Director, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority